Tafas v. Dudas et al

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## **EXHIBIT 5-e**

52 1 Interrogatory 2: State the projections and 2 estimates present or past that defendants have made regarding the number of petitions, and it's et cetera. 3 And Interrogatory Number 3: State all projections 5 or estimates present or past that the defendants have made 6 regarding the number of examination support documents that 7 would be filed. 8 These are all, it is only three interrogatories, 9 directly at--THE COURT: I understand. I sent you off on a 10 11 tangent by using the word "extensive." 12 MR. DESMARAIS: Yeah, I just want to be, what Ms. 13 Wetzler said--14 THE COURT: Yours is less extensive than Mr. Nealon's, I don't--15 MR. DESMARAIS: But, yeah. And Ms. Wetzler said it 16 17 also though, I mean, these are, these are-- We are asking for 18 things that should have been in the administrative record anyway. I mean, you look at the documents requests, it's the 19 same thing. We are only asking for documents that we know 20 21 exist that aren't in the record. 22 So, this is not -- This is probably the stuff in 23 those 20 to 30 lawyers' offices or employees' offices that 24 were never collected. 25 So, you know, to not have that stuff be reviewed and

put into the record where it belongs and to have some sort of catalog of what the PTO is actually saying, this we are not going to give you because it is deliberative, how are we supposed to litigate the case? We would clearly be litigating the case on less than the whole record.

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And every case in this area says it is incumbent upon us to get the whole record before the Court so the Court can do its job.

So, I think some discovery here is absolutely required in order to follow through on our mandate of litigating the entire record. And the PTO has the obligation of articulating what is deliberative with specificity, not with a broad brush that those 30 people's files are off limits.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MS. WETZLER: Your Honor, since these are crossmotions, hopefully I will have an opportunity briefly to offer further rebuttal.

First of all, interesting that Mr. Desmarais focused on the interrogatories, which I did not characterize as extensive.

What is extensive is the production requests. They are sweeping in nature. They cover the whole field of these rules. Much like their FOIA requests do, which the document requests are very obviously intended as a way to expedite the

54 FOIA process which has to take its time to wend its way 1 through the agency. 3 The presumption of regularity, Your Honor, has not been rebutted in this case. I made a correction, hopefully the Court understood, it was not that no one looked at their 6 documents --THE COURT: I did. 7 8 MS. WETZLER: -- before. And that's a critical correction, and I hope that that's clear now. 9 10 What we have heard repeatedly from Tafas counsel is, I don't know what we are going to find. That's a quote, "I 11 don't know." That's indicative of just how speculative what 12 13 the plaintiffs are, are asking for is. They are seeking a fishing expedition. They don't know what they are going to 14 find. And that's the fundamental problem with what they are 15 16 seeking. 17 In addition, with respect to the privilege log, I perhaps didn't make the point orally just before that there is 18 no compelling, binding authority requiring a privilege log. 19 20 Plaintiffs have not identified any. 21 THE COURT: I am aware of that. 22 MS. WETZLER: And under those circumstances, the case we have shown, Blue Ocean Institute, reasons from a D.C. 23 circuit case which leads to the conclusion that a privilege 24 log is not appropriate because deliberative materials do not 25

55 1 belong in the case. So, that is the compelling authority here, Your 2 3 Honor. This Court would be the first in this circuit that we 4 know of to order a privilege log under these kinds of circumstances on an administrative record. 6 The plaintiffs are arguing, well, we need evidence to prove bad faith. No, Your Honor, they needed to prove bad 7 8 faith now to enter into discovery. 9 All we have here are policy differences. The 10 plaintiffs don't like this policy. They have 10,000 pages to 11 work with to show why it was arbitrary and capricious, if 12 that's what they seek to do. 13 Thank you. 14 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. MR. DESMARAIS: Did you want to hear more on the 15 law? Because Ms. Wetzler just brought up the privilege law 16 for the first time. I mean, I think the cases are legion that 17 warrant and mandate in certain circumstances privilege logs 18 from federal agencies. 19 20 THE COURT: I am aware of that, but I am satisfied 21 that those circumstances don't exist here. 22 I am not going to make extensive findings from the 23 bench. I am going to give you what I hope will be a very 24 short memorandum order in the next day or two. 25 But I can tell you that I am satisfied and I find

that plaintiffs are not entitled to discovery in this case. I have given it a lot of thought, and I have come in with a mind to be persuaded if the facts and the law could persuade me that you are entitled to discovery. And I find that you are not.

So, plaintiffs' motions are going to be denied. And defendant's motion, which is in effect a motion for a protective order to the extent it deals with the depositions, is going to be granted. And I am going to go ahead and deal today with a briefing schedule so that you will know what that is.

And Mr. Nealon, Mr. Desmarais, in anticipation of the possibility that you might file Rule 72 objections to my rulings as soon as they are in the form of a written order, I want to tell you that I don't intend to modify the briefing schedule unless and until such objections might have been sustained by Judge Cacheris.

So, this is your briefing schedule unless and until something happens of that nature. And when I say this is your briefing schedule, I am going to give you a chance to comment on it. It's fairly similar to what I gather you-all have been discussing.

The proposed hearing date had been, for crossmotions for summary judgment had been February 15. That is one of the days of the Fourth Circuit judges' conference. So--

57 1 MS. WETZLER: Your Honor, that was originally, we had moved it then to February 8 because Mr. Desmarais wasn't 2 even available on the 15th. So, it was the 8th that we had 3 agreed on unless he is in trial on that date. 4 5 THE COURT: All right. Well, I was going to move it 6 back to the 22nd. I may have the wrong piece of paper in my 7 hand, but I have what I thought was your latest proposed 8 order. 9 Does the 22nd work as well as the 8th? MR. DESMARAIS: Well, I think that, I think you may 10 11 have the wrong order in front of you. I think one of the 12 issues that we had in our negotiations was that I am actually 13 on trial in February. 14 So, what we had agreed was that it would be February 8 if my case settled. But then if it wasn't, we 15 would jointly propose the first Friday that I am not actually 16 17 in trial. So, we didn't actually pick a date. 18 So, it is a little cumbersome at this date to pick a 19 date in February because I do actually have other trial 20 commitments. 21 THE COURT: All right. Well, just so I have got a fuller understanding of your situation, Mr. Desmarais, if the 22 23 case goes to trial, do you have an anticipated, I know you 24 can't predict with any certainty when it is going to be over,

but have you got a best guesstimate when you will be done?

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1 MR. DESMARAIS: Yes. In fact, in order to be 2 certain, it was my original proposal to the Government that we 3 have the argument the first week in, I think it was the first week in April. And the compromise was February 8. Unless the 4 5 case settles, then, you know, we will take the first Friday, 6 which would have been April anyway. 7 So, I mean, my real proposal is to be sure that I am not on a trial conflict would be the first Friday in April or 8 9 any Friday thereafter would be fine from my trial schedule 10 point of view. THE COURT: All right. Ms. Wetzler. 11 12 MS. WETZLER: And, Your Honor, we strongly object to 13 waiting until April for a hearing. If I may hand up the most 14 recent proposed order if the Court thinks that would be 15 helpful. THE COURT: Let me take a look at it. 16 17 All right, Ms. Wetzler, if I am melding all this together properly, while you don't want the Court to wait 18 until April, you are comfortable with proposed paragraph 5 in 19 this sketch order, February 8 or the first time thereafter 20 that Mr. Desmarais is available? 21 22 MS. WETZLER: Yes, Your Honor. It seems that that's 23 the best that we all could do. And certainly we understand 24 and we know that Mr. Desmarais will in good faith tell us if

his trial is going to settle and/or whether the second trial

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59 1 is going to in fact complete before April, which it sounds from our conversations like there is a chance that it wouldn't 2 be all the way until April. 3 THE COURT: All right. All right. 4 5 MR. DESMARAIS: There is one modification that I 6 would like to propose to the agreement, only because this morning the AIPLA asked me for their amicus brief. 7 8 I think we had, Ms. Wetzler and I had agreed that the amicus briefs would be filed at the same time as summary 9 judgment. 10 11 AIPLA is here, I don't know if they want to be 12 heard, but there was some concern that that might be 13 aggressive for them because they are a large organization. 14 THE COURT: That the timing would be aggressive? 15 MR. DESMARAIS: I don't know. I mean, I don't want 16 to speak for them, but I think that the issue was they weren't sure-- They are an organization of 17,000 companies, and they 17 have a board of directors, and sometimes to get that 18 organization to move that quickly may be tricky, but no other 19 amicus has told me that it is a concern. So, I think it may 20 21 only apply to AIPLA. 22 THE COURT: Well, don't I just leave it. I am 23 thinking out loud here, why don't I just leave it December 20 24 for amicus with the understanding that any organization 25 wishing to file an amicus brief who has a problem with that

1 date, can just file a motion --MR. DESMARAIS: That will be fine, Your Honor. 3 THE COURT: All right. Then I will deal with any 4 such motion on the papers. 5 MR. NEALON: Your Honor, on the amicus issue, in our papers we had indicated that it would probably make more sense 6 to have those amicus briefs filed perhaps a week after the 7 8 initial summary judgment filing in that the theory of amicus briefs is usually you don't want to have duplication and 9 redundancy. So that there might be some benefit to the amicus 10 being able to see what's--11 12 THE COURT: I would be happy to give all amicus 13 until January, you know, for that sort of reason. 14 MR. NEALON: I am just thinking it may make more 15 sense rather than having ten sets of duplicate papers where 16 everyone is making potentially duplicative redundant arguments. 17 18 THE COURT: Ms. Wetzler. 19 MS. WETZLER: Your Honor, our concern with waiting until January is that we are aware of, I believe at this point 20 at least seven and counting amicus briefs that are going to 21 22 likely come in against us. And consequently, to require us to have I think what would effectively be two to three weeks to 23 24 digest all of those if they were to come in in January, is

extremely difficult. It is extremely burdensome.

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And so, we would ask, although we certainly didn't hope to be reading them over the Christmas holiday, we probably will be, but at least we should have that opportunity in order to be able to digest all of this material in addition to the two substantial filings we expect to receive from the plaintiffs.

We don't believe that it is appropriate to delay the amicus filings. AIPLA was the first one in the door, they have known about this for, at the preliminary injunction stage, they have known about this for a very long time. And December 20 should certainly have been ample time for them to be able to write their brief.

THE COURT: All right. I am going to--

MR. DESMARAIS: I mean, Your Honor, if I might help. I mean, realistically, the argument is likely going to be, you know, the first week in April because, you know, I don't believe that the second trial is going to settle.

So, you know, if Your Honor is concerned about the amicus, I mean, if we are really talking practically here, I don't think we are going to have an argument, you know, February 8 or whatever the date is in the order.

So, there is more room there as a real matter than-So, having the amicus briefs come in in January would give Ms.
Wetzler plenty of time to respond to them if we, you know,
just confronted the reality and made the argument for April.

62 1 I don't know that there is a huge difference between February and April at this point. MS. WETZLER: We had understood that Mr. Desmarais 3 4 was in good faith going to have it on the February 8 if the 5 trial settled, which I understood the first trial had a reasonable likelihood of settling. And that's why we looked 6 to February 8. 7 8 If it goes, we at least want the briefing to be able to allow that if it can be possible. It is extremely 9 important to the PTO that this be resolved expeditiously. 10 11 THE COURT: Well, that's one of several 12 considerations. 13 I will just give you the briefing schedule in my 14 order along with my, my stated findings. I will tell you with respect to page lengths, that I 15 16 am going to expand the page length for the parties to 40 17 pages. 18 I see no reason as of now to expand the amicus page 19 limit. 20 MS. WETZLER: Your Honor, if I may ask, with respect to the 40 pages, the Government is facing two complaints and 21 in theory could file two summary judgment briefs. 22 23 So, we would, in order to economize for the Court, we would like to combine everything into one opening summary 24 judgment brief, but given that that could be two, we would ask 2.5

63 for at least up to 60 pages in order to fully respond to 1 2 everything that's in these amended complaints. THE COURT: Ms. Wetzler, if you get them and after reading them find that the situation calls for it, you can 4 5 file a motion. 6 MS. WETZLER: Yes, Your Honor. 7 THE COURT: I would expect 40 to be enough, at least 8 based on what I know now. All right, counsel, thank you. Court is in recess. 9 10 NOTE: The hearing concluded 11:49 a.m. 11 12 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION 13 14 I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript that was typed by me from the recording 15 provided by the court. Any errors or omissions are due to the 16 17 inability of the undersigned to hear or understand said recording. 18 19 Further, that I am neither counsel for, related to, 20 nor employed by any of the parties to the above-styled action, and that I am not financially or otherwise interested in the 21 22 outcome of the above-styled action. 23 24 25 Norman B. Linnell Court Reporter - USDC/EDVA